Endangered Species Act Biological Evaluation Form
Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Restoration
Fish and Wildlife Service & National Marine Fisheries Service

This form will be used to provide information for the initiation of informal Section 7 consultations under the Endangered Species Act, if required, or to document a No Effect determination. In addition, information provided in this form may be used to inform other regulatory compliance processes such as Essential Fish Habitat (EFH), Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), and Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA). Further information may be required beyond what is captured in this form. Note: if you need additional space for writing, please attach pages as needed.

A. Project Identification

Lead Agency

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service/National Marine Fisheries Service

Agency Contact Person	*Phone*	*Email*
Ashley Mills and Laurel Jennings	812-756-2712 and 206-526-4601	Ashley_Mills@fws.gov and Laurel.Jennings@noaa.gov

I. *Applicant Agency or Business Name*

Florida Department of Environmental Protection

II. *Applicant Contact Person*	III. *Phone*	*Email*
Gareth Leonard	(850) 245-2222	Gareth.Leonard@dep.state.fl.us

IV. *Project Name and ID# (Official name of project and ID number assigned by action agency)*

Florida Coastal Access Project- Island View Park

V. *Project Type #1*	*Project Type #2, if helpful*
General Construction/Building	Pier Restoration

VI. *NMFS Office (Choose appropriate office based on project location)*

NMFS Southeast Regional Office

VII. *FWS Office (Choose appropriate office based on project location)*

Panama City Ecological Services Field Office (Panama City)

B. Project Location

I. Physical Address of action area (If applicable)

1714 U.S. Highway 98 East, Carabelle, Florida

II. *State & County/Parish of action area*

Franklin County, Florida

III. *Latitude & Longitude for action area (Decimal degrees and datum [e.g., 27.71622°N, 80.25174°W NAD83] [online conversion: https://www.fcc.gov/encyclopedia/degrees-minutes-seconds-tofrom-decimal-degrees])*

29.853397°N 84.636493°W WGS84

IV. Township, range and section of the action area

Township 07S, Range 4W, Section 21

C. Description of Action Area

1. Attach a separate map delineating where the action will occur. 2. Describe ALL areas that may be affected directly or indirectly by the action and not merely the immediate action area involved in the action, or just where species or critical habitat may be present. Provide a description of the existing environmental conditions and characteristics (e.g., topography, vegetation type, soil type, substrate type, water quality, water depth, tidal/riverine/estuarine, hydrology and drainage patterns, current flow and direction), and land uses (e.g., public, residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural). 3. If habitat for species is present in the action area, provide a general description of the current state of the habitat. 4. Identify any management or other activities already occurring in the area. 5. Provide or attach a detailed map of the area of potential effect for ground disturbing activities if the area is different from the action area.

1. The site is split into two parcels by Rt 98. See attached map (Attachment A: Figure 1, 2).

2. The proposed Island View Park site is a 7.13-acre tract of land that is currently owned by and located within Franklin County, Florida about one mile east of the City of Carrabelle. The property is divided by U.S. 98, a state-designated Big Bend Scenic Byway, with an inland northwestern parcel ("inland parcel") that is 4 acres and a southeastern waterfront parcel ("waterfront parcel") that is 3.13 acres. The waterfront parcel of the property includes 884 linear feet of frontage along St. George Sound, which lies between two State-designated aquatic preserves (listed as "Outstanding Florida Waters") and is adjacent to the Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve. The proposed project involves in-water work to widen the two docks, and activities throughout much of the area of the waterfront parcel, including a parking lot, walkways, kiosk, and a turning lane off of U.S. 98.

The waterfront parcel was previously developed with a number of small cottages as part of a motel (Attachment A: Figures 9,10). All cottage structures and surface improvements were razed and most debris removed after 2011, other than two fishing docks and a dilapidated concrete boat ramp. There is also a footpath along the waterfront that is bare of vegetation. There are no currently existing barriers to entering the waterfront property, which is used for unofficial parking associated with fishing activities on the existing docks. The waterfront parcel has some nearshore grass and some remnant maritime hammock habitat, but much of the waterfront parcel is currently un-vegetated due to prior and ongoing disturbances (see Attachment A: Figure 4, 5, 6, 7). At the shoreline, emergent marsh grasses occur but have been disturbed by regular mowing. There are seagrasses in the water near the piers at this site.

The inland parcel (Attachment A: Figures 8, 11) was used as a mobile home park from before 1953 until about 2004, but has been left largely unused since that time and the parcel is largely vegetated. Vegetation on the inland site consists of pine trees (potentially including longleaf pine (Pinus palustris)) and ornamental landscaping vegetation. Existing infrastructure on the inland parcel is minimal with some above-ground PVC piping and a potential subterranean septic tank on the inland parcel. No improvements are planned on this parcel under the current project.

The proposed Island View Park site is located within Franklin County on the Florida Panhandle along St. George Sound. This site is predominantly flat. There has been previous development onsite where soils have been disturbed. Soil in the site area has been classified by USDA NRCS as predominantly Leon sand. This soil type is composed primarily of sand, is flat with slight slopes, poorly drained, and classified as having high runoff. This site is located in an area with historic longleaf pines. The mainland along St. George Sound is fine-grained sand. Most of the site is disturbed and unvegetated, although there is some SAV and some remnant maritime hammock habitat. The proposed Island View Park site is located east of Carrabelle on the St. George Sound. The sound is created by barrier islands, which shelter the mainland from the Gulf of Mexico. The closest freshwater inlet is the Carrabelle River. This proposed project site is located in FEMA designated Flood Zone VE, indicating a coastal flood zone with velocity hazards (wave action) with base flood elevations of 17 and 18 feet in areas. Water quality in Franklin County has decreased due to coastal development and excessive stormwater runoff. Waterbodies in the area of the site are listed on the state's 303d list of impaired waterbodies for mercury in fish tissue and bacteria in shellfish and beach advisories. The parcels are currently zoned Commercial Recreational District (C-3).

3. While the action area may provide habitat for listed species, no listed species are known to occur in the action area. Potentially affected species are described in Sections E-J.

4. This property has been in private ownership for many years, and has recently been acquired by the Trust for Public Lands and donated to Franklin County. Regular site maintenance (mowing, etc) has been ongoing.

5. The area of potential effect is not expected to fall outside of the immediate site area. See Attachment A: Figure 1, 3.

a. *Waterbody*

(If applicable. Name the body of water, including wetlands (freshwater or estuarine), on which the project is located. If the location is in a river or estuary, please approximate the navigable distance from the project location to the marine environment.)

The waterfront parcel has frontage on St. George Sound, on the Gulf of Mexico (marine environment).

b. *Existing Structures*

(If applicable. Describe the current and historical structures found in the action area (e.g., buildings, parking lots, docks, seawalls, groynes, jetties, marina.)). If known, please provide the years of construction.

This site has had extensive development historically. Two piers currently exist at this waterfront parcel. Historically, (prior to 1953) there was a motel on site with 14 buildings (10 of which were rental cottages), but they have been razed (2010-2013) and all surface materials have been removed except for a few concrete remnants (e.g., old foundation and footer) and other debris (Attachment A: Figure 9).

c. *Seagrasses & Other Marine Vegetation*

(If applicable. Describe seagrasses found in action area. If a benthic survey was done, provide the date it was completed and a copy of the report. Estimate the species area of coverage and density. Attach a separate map showing the location of the seagrasses in the action area.)

There are seagrasses in the water near the docks at this site. However, it is unlikely that seagrasses persist under the existing piers. The most recent seagrass cover survey appears to be from 2010, before that the most recent was from 1992 showing patchy, discontinuous, sparse seagrass. Seagrasses have increased in St. George Sound from 1992, but they are a mixture of patchy and continuous seagrasses along the shore of the site within St. George Sound. Seagrasses are apparent in the aerial photo from 2014 (Attachment A: Figures 1 and 9).

d. *Mangroves*

(If applicable. Describe the mangroves found in action area. Indicate the species found (red, black, white), the species area of coverage in square footage and linear footage along project shoreline. Attach a separate map showing the location of the mangroves in the action area.)

Not applicable.

e. *Corals*

(If applicable. Describe the corals found in action area. If a benthic survey was done, provide the date it was completed and a copy of the report. Estimate the species area of coverage and density. Attach a separate map showing the location of the corals in the action area.)

Not applicable.

f. *Uplands*

(If applicable. Describe the current terrestrial habitat in which the project is located (e.g. pasture, forest, meadows, beach and dune habitats, etc.).

This parcel has estuarine subtidal habitat, some emergent marsh, nearshore SAV, and maritime hammock habitat, but this area is very disturbed, with areas that are bare of vegetation, and many areas that are regularly mowed. Little understory exists under most trees (Attachment A: Fig. 4, 5, 6, 7). At the shoreline, emergent marsh grasses occur but have been disturbed by regular mowing.

D. Project Description

I. *Construction Schedule (What is the anticipated schedule for major phases of work? Include duration of in-water work.)*

7-9 months. This timeframe includes constructing a turning lane and an acceleration lane on Highway 98-E, which splits the property into two parcels. The specific schedule for construction has not been established, as the project is only at a conceptual design phase at this time (Attachment A: Figure 3).

II. *Describe the Proposed Action: 1. What is the purpose and need of the proposed action? 2. How do you plan to accomplish it? Describe in detail the construction equipment and methods** needed; permanent vs. temporary impacts; duration of temporary impacts; dust, erosion, and sedimentation controls; restoration areas; if the project is growth-inducing or facilitates growth; whether the project is part of a larger project or plan; and what permits will need to be obtained. 3. Attach a separate map showing project footprint, avoidance areas, construction accesses, staging/ laydown areas.* ***If construction involves overwater structures, pilings and sheetpiles, boat slips, boat ramps, shoreline armoring, dredging, blasting, or artificial reefs, list the method here, but complete the next section(s) in detail.***

See Attachment B.

III. *Specific In-Water and/or Terrestrial Construction Methods (Provide a detailed account of construction methods. It is important to include step-by-step descriptions of how demolition or removal of structures is conducted and if any debris will be moved and how. Describe how construction will be implemented, what type and size of materials will be used and if machines will be used, manual labor, or both. Indicate if work will be done from upland, barge, or both.)*

a. *Overwater Structures (Place your answers to the following questions in the box below.)*

i. *Is the proposed use of this structure for a docking facility or an observation platform?*
ii. *If no, is this a fishing pier? Public or Private? How many people are expected to fish per day? How do you plan to address hook and line captures?*
iii. *Use of "Dock Construction Guidelines"?* http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/endangered%20species/Section%207/DockGuidelines.pdf
iv. *Type of decking: Grated – 43% open space; Wooden planks or composite planks – proposed spacing?*
v. *Height above Mean High Water (MHW) elevation?*
vi. *Directional orientation of main axis of dock?*
vii. *Overwater area (sqft)?*
viii. *Use of "Sea Turtle and Smalltooth Sawfish Construction Conditions, March 2006"?* http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/endangered%20species/Sea%20Turtle%20and%20Smalltooth%20Sawfish%20Construction%20Conditions%203-23-06.pdf

i) This project includes widening two existing docks to make them ADA compliant. No new pilings will be required. These docks will not be used for motorized vessels. ii) Yes, this will be a public fishing pier (dock). Site visitation is expected to vary with fishing seasons. Parking at the site is limited to 32 spaces. No fish cleaning stations are included in the plan. Any hook and line captures of listed species must be reported. iii) Yes, USACE and NMFS dock construction guidelines will be followed where possible regarding pier modifications on existing pilings. iv) Type of decking will be either wooden planks or composite planks. v) Current dock height is unquantified, but likely greater than 2 feet (see Attachment A: Figure 6). vi) Dock 1 (northern pier) is oriented southeast from the site. Dock 2 (southern pier) is oriented southeast from the site. vii) Dock 1 is approximately no more than 2,140 sq ft. Pier 2 is approximately no more than 1,400 sq. ft. viii) Dock modifications will be in accordance with "Sea Turtle and Smalltooth Sawfish Construction Conditions, March 2006."

b. *Pilings & Sheetpiles (What type of material is the piling or sheetpiles? What size and how many will be used? Method used to install: impact hammer, vibratory hammer, jetting, etc.?)*

All dock/pier work will use the existing pilings. Modifications to the piers will include widening of the existing piers for ADA compliance. Materials will be made from natural (i.e., wood) or composite materials. Dock modifications will likely be widened to 5 feet in width, likely using a barge with small crane and the barge would likely maneuver around the site with shallow draft. The area will be surveyed, likely via aerial imagery analysis, to determine the extent of SAV prior to dock widening construction. If SAV is identified in the potential shadow of the widened docks, design modifications will be made to avoid or minimize impacts to SAV.

c. *Boat Slips (Describe the number and size of slips and if the number of new slips changes from what is currently available at the project. Indicate how many are wet slips and how many are dry slips. Estimate the shadow effect of the boats - the area (sqft) beneath the boats that will be shaded.)*

Not applicable.

d. *Boat Ramp (Describe the number and size of boat ramps, the number of vessels that can be moored at the site (e.g., staging area) and if this is a public or private ramp. Indicate the boat trailer parking lot capacity, and if this number changes from what is currently available at the project.)*

Not applicable. There are remnants of a small concrete boat ramp on the shoreline at the north side of the site near the northern dock, but it will be removed to provide beach access and paddle-up access for paddlecraft as part of this project.

e. *Shoreline Armoring (This includes all manner of shoreline armoring (e.g., riprap, seawalls, jetties, groins, breakwaters, etc.). Provide specific information on material and construction methodology used to install the shoreline armoring materials. Include linear footage and square footage. Attach a separate map showing the location of the shoreline armoring in the action area.)*

Not applicable.

f. *Dredging or digging (Provide details about dredge type (hopper, cutterhead, clamshell, etc.), maximum depth of dredging, area (ft^2) to be dredged, volume of material (yd^3) to be produced, grain size of material, sediment testing for contamination, spoil disposition plans, and hydrodynamic description (average current speed/direction)). If digging in the terrestrial environment, please describe fully with details about possible water jetting, vibration methods to install pilings for dune walk-over structure, or other methods.*

No in-water dredging or digging will occur. Digging will occur in the terrestrial environment to auger holes for installation of support structures (where needed) for the boardwalk. Digging will also occur if engineering designs determine that a stormwater pond is necessary to control runoff from the permeable parking area, this is estimated to be 700 cubic yards of excavation. There are no bathrooms proposed on-site. Additional ground disturbances and surficial digging will be associated with construction of a permeable parking lot for 32 spaces, the construction of an asphalt acceleration lane, turning lane, and an alternative vehicular entry/exit. Concrete would be used for two ADA compliant parking spaces. Minor disturbances associated with tree plantings, the fire hydrant installation, and installation of a small irrigation system and accompanying infrastructure will occur. The extent of terrestrial digging will likely be less than an acre of total area. The depth depends on final engineering design for the boardwalk, but for most of the parking lot, depth would be less than one foot.

g. *Blasting (Projects that use blasting might not qualify as "minor projects," and a Biological Assessment (BA) may need to be prepared for the project. Arrange a technical consultation meeting with NMFS Protected Resources Division to determine if a BA is necessary. Please include explosive weights and blasting plan.)*

Not applicable.

h. *Artificial Reefs (Provide a detailed account of the artificial reef site selection and reef establishment decisions (i.e., management and siting considerations, stakeholder considerations, environmental considerations), deployment schedule, materials used, deployment methods, as well as final depth profile and overhead clearance for vessel traffic. For additional information and detailed guidance on artificial reefs, please refer to the artificial reef program websites for the particular state the project will occur in.*

Not applicable.

E. Species & Critical Habitat

1. List all species, critical habitat, proposed species and proposed critical habitat that may be found in the action area.
2. Attach a separate map identifying species/critical habitat locations within the action area.

For information on species and critical habitat under FWS jurisdiction, visit http://www.fws.gov/endangered/species/. Under NMFS jurisdiction, visit: http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/protected_resources/section_7/threatened_endangered/Documents/gulf_of_mexico.pdf.

Identify if gulf sturgeon are in saltwater, estuarine, or in freshwater in your Species and/or Critical Habitat list to determine which federal agency will perform the analysis (e.g. gulf sturgeon CH - saltwater). Identify if sea turtles are in water or on land in your Species and/or Critical Habitat list to determine which federal agency will perform the analysis (e.g. Loggerhead sea turtle CH - terrestrial).

SPECIES and/or CRITICAL HABITAT (CH)	LOCATION (for sea turles and gulf sturgeon only)	STATUS	CH UNIT
Piping plover	Select One	Threatened	
Red knot	Select One	Threatened	
Gulf sturgeon	Marine	Threatened	
West Indian manatee	Select One	Endangered	
Green sea turtle	Marine	Endangered	
Hawksbill sea turtle	Marine	Endangered	
Kemp's ridley sea turtle	Marine	Endangered	
Leatherback sea turtles	Marine	Endangered	
Loggerhead sea turtle	Marine	Threatened	
Florida skullcap	Select One	Threatened	
Godfrey's butterwort	Select One	Threatened	
Telephus spurge	Select One	Threatened	
White birds-in-a-nest	Select One	Threatened	
Harper's beauty	Select One	Endangered	
Papery whitlow-wort	Select One	Threatened	
Gulf sturgeon critical habitat	Marine	Critical Habitat	CH Unit 13

F. Effects of the Proposed Project

I. *Explain the potential beneficial and adverse effects to each species listed above (Describe what, when, and how the species will be impacted and the likely response to the impact. Be sure to include direct, indirect, interdependent, interrelated, connected actions, and cumulative impacts. Where possible, quantify effects. If species are present (or potentially present) and will not be adversely affected describe your rationale. If species are unlikely to be present in the general area or action area, explain why. This justification provides documentation for your administrative record, avoids the need for additional correspondence regarding the species, and helps expedite review.)*

Gulf sturgeon. The Gulf sturgeon inhabits coastal waters and freshwater river systems of the northern Gulf of Mexico. Gulf sturgeon are usually located in areas 2-4 meters deep with high sand substrate. There is critical habitat for Gulf sturgeon at this site, and there is the potential for Gulf sturgeon to be in the waters during the time of construction. Potential impacts to the Gulf sturgeon include elevated noise levels and the presence of suspended sediments in the water column due to construction related activities. This species is mobile and would likely exit the area during construction. As a result of proposed construction activities conducted on the docks and anticipated recreational uses, this proposed project may have direct or indirect adverse effects on Gulf sturgeon. Adverse effects from construction will be avoided or minimized by using conservation measures and BMPs in Section G.

Sea turtles. There is no piling installation proposed for this site, only enhancements (i.e., widening) to the two existing piers. The project location does not intersect with any identified sea turtle critical habitat in water or on land. However, the range of sea turtles suggests they could occur in the project area although the lack of suitable nesting habitat and the turtles' ability to avoid the general activity in the area may make this less likely. As a result of construction activities conducted on the docks and anticipated recreational uses, this project may have direct or indirect adverse effects on sea turtles. Adverse effects from construction will be avoided or minimized by using conservation measures and BMPs in Section G.

West Indian manatee. The West Indian manatee inhabits freshwater, brackish, and marine environments. It typically occurs in coastal and inland tidal rivers and streams, mangrove swamps, salt marshes, freshwater springs, canals, lagoons, and vegetated bottoms. It moves to warm-water sites, including industrial warm-water discharges, during the winter. The project location does not intersect with any identified critical habitat for the West Indian manatee. Marine mammals are affected by vibrations resulting from construction activities. There is no piling installation (e.g., driving or pushing pilings) proposed at this site, however, dock modifications such as widening are considered in-water work and there may be increased activity in and around the dock areas. As a result of construction related activities conducted on the docks, this project may have direct and/or indirect adverse effects on the West Indian manatee. If manatees are present, they would probably avoid the construction area. Appropriate conservation measures and BMPs as described in Section G will be undertaken to avoid or minimize adverse impacts to manatees from any construction activities that occur.

Plants (Florida skullcap, Godfrey's butterwort, Papery whitlow-wort, Telephus spurge, white birds-in-a-nest, Harper's beauty). These plants occur primarily in wet prairies, savannahs, and pine flatwoods. Extensive prior development likely minimizes the potential for these species to occur in the action area. The waterfront property has emergent marsh, nearshore grass, and some maritime hammock, likely not providing preferable habitat for these plants. Although these plants could occur on this parcel, they are not known to inhabit the site. Although these species could occur onsite, the proposed preservation of suitable habitat onsite would reduce potential impacts to these plant species. If protected plants are found during project implementation, a USFWS Botanist will be

II. *Explain the potential beneficial and adverse effects to critical habitat listed above (Describe what, when, and how the critical habitat will be impacted and the likely response to the impact. Be sure to include direct, indirect, interdependent, interrelated, connected actions, and cumulative impacts. Where possible, quantify effects (e.g. acres of habitat, miles of habitat). Describe your rationale if designated or proposed critical habitats are present and will not be adversely affected.*

The site contains no critical habitat for any of the species except Gulf Sturgeon (critical habitat unit 13; Attachment A: Figure 12). Gulf sturgeon critical habitat unit 13 is located directly adjacent to the site, and continues throughout most of St. George Sound and southwest to Apalachicola Bay. In-water work proposed for this site only consists of enhancements (i.e., widening) to the existing piers; there is no proposed piling installation. Impacts to critical habitat would be indirect and adverse from actions such as increased suspended sediment and noise. Construction barges, tugs and other watercraft will most likely be staged in the site area, thus in Gulf sturgeon critical habitat. BMPs and conservation measures, such as those described in Section G, will be implemented during construction of this project to avoid or minimize adverse effects to critical habitat. No destruction or adverse modification to Gulf sturgeon critical habitat is anticipated by implementing this project.

G. Actions to Reduce Adverse Effects

I. *Explain the actions to reduce adverse effects to each species listed above (For each species for which impacts were identified, describe any conservation measures (e.g. BMPs) that will be implemented to avoid or minimize the impacts. Conservation measures are designed to avoid or minimize effects to listed species and critical habitats or further the recovery of the species under review. Conservation measures are considered part of the proposed action and their implementation is required. Any changes to, modifications of, or failure to implement these conservation measures may result in a need to reinitiate this consultation.)*

Gulf sturgeon. Impacts to the Gulf sturgeon will be reduced or alleviated by implementation of BMPs during ground disturbance activities that will reduce sediment and nutrient inputs to streams, minimize disturbance to riparian zone vegetation within 100 feet of the streambank in occupied habitat, revegetate disturbed areas with native vegetation, and maintenance of minimum flows during water diversions. Work will most likely take place during the spring and summer months when Gulf Sturgeon are not likely to be present in inshore shallow waters. All work will take place in less than 1.5 meters of water and in areas of silty sand with seagrass. These species are known to avoid high human activity when given the opportunity. If construction activity occurs when Gulf sturgeon are present, additional adverse impact reduction strategies will include the following:
• During project implementation, maintain riparian buffers of at least 100 feet around critical habitat. Install silt fencing to prevent sedimentation or erosion into streams and rivers;
• Control turbidity levels through the use of floating turbidity screens during in-water construction;
• Implement the Sea Turtle and Smalltooth Construction Conditions, Revised: March 23, 2006 and Measures for Reducing Entrapment Risk to Protected Species, Revised: May 22, 2012 as they are protective of Gulf sturgeon as well.

Sea turtles and manatees. To reduce the risk of adverse impacts to an insignificant or discountable level, the best management practices identified within the Sea Turtle and Smalltooth Sawfish Construction Conditions and the Standard Manatee Conditions for In-Water Work (USFWS 2011) will be implemented and adhered to during periods of in-water work. As noted in these documents, these conditions require stopping operation of any equipment if sea turtles or smalltooth sawfish come within 50 feet of the equipment until the animals leave the project area of their own volition. Pending negotiations on final design, marine mammal and sea turtle conservation measures could include posting of educational signage detailing what to do if sea turtles or marine mammals are spotted in the vicinity, or what to do in the event that there is an incidental hooking. There is the possibility to enlist these docks in Florida's Responsible Pier Initiative Program (a program through the Loggerhead Marinelife Center that adds signage to fishing piers, hosts first responder trainings, and conducts underwater clean-ups around piers). Additional conservation measures for sea turtles could include the use of wildlife friendly lighting if lights are required for docks. Lighting could be required for boater safety. The lighting would be wildlife friendly, consisting of solar LED lights.

Plants (Florida skullcap, Godfrey's butterwort, Papery whitlow-wort, Telephus spurge, white birds-in-a-nest, Harper's beauty). If these plant species are found on site, a FWS Botanist will be contacted and appropriate measures to avoid or minimize impacts to these species will be incorporated into the project.

Piping plover and red knot. Impacts to listed birds will be reduced or alleviated by implementation of BMPs during on site work that would prevent disturbance of birds. These measures may include posting of concentration areas to be avoided, and minimizing planting of vegetation in preferred habitats. If construction occurs when these species might be present, conservation measures will be

II. *Explain the actions to reduce adverse effects to critical habitat listed above (For critical habitat for which impacts were identified, describe any conservation measures (e.g. BMPs) that will be implemented to avoid or minimize the impacts. Conservation measures are designed to avoid or minimize effects to listed species and critical habitats or further the recovery of the species under review. Conservation measures are considered part of the proposed action and their implementation is required. Any changes to, modifications of, or failure to implement these conservation measures may result in a need to reinitiate this consultation.)*

Any construction work requiring equipment use from vessels (e.g., cranes on barges), will be conducted in accordance with the best management practices in the Standard Manatee Conditions for In-Water Work and Sea Turtle and Smalltooth Sawfish Construction Conditions to help to avoid or minimize impacts to species and critical habitat in the action area. Additionally, water quality measures (listed above in section G.I. for Gulf sturgeon and in general conservation measures) will help prevent any impacts to critical habitat for Gulf sturgeon. These include during project implementation, maintaining riparian buffers of at least 100 feet around critical habitat, and installation of silt fencing to prevent sedimentation or erosion into water bodies.

H. Effect Determination Requested

From the sections above, there should be enough detailed information to provide clear and obvious support for your determinations in the section below. If the rationale for the determination is not clear, additional information must be added to one of the sections. Identify if gulf sturgeon are in saltwater, estuarine, or in freshwater in your Species and/or Critical Habitat list to determine which federal agency will perform the analysis (e.g. gulf sturgeon CH - saltwater). Identify if sea turtles are in water or on land in your Species and/or Critical Habitat list to determine which federal agency will perform the analysis (e.g. Loggerhead sea turtle CH - terrestrial).

SPECIES and/or CRITICAL HABITAT	LOCATION (for sea turtles and gulf sturgeon only)	DETERMINATION (see definitions below)
Piping plover	Select One	May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect
Red knot	Select One	May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect
Gulf sturgeon	Marine	May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect
West Indian Manatee	Select One	May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect
Green sea turtle	Marine	May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect
Hawksbill sea turtle	Marine	May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect
Kemp's ridley sea turtle	Marine	May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect
Leatherback sea turtle	Marine	May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect
Loggerhead sea turtle	Marine	May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect
Florida skullcap	Select One	May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect
Godfrey's butterwort	Select One	May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect
Telephus spurge	Select One	May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect
White birds-in-a-nest	Select One	May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect
Harper's beauty	Select One	May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect
Papery whitlow-wort	Select One	May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect
Gulf sturgeon critical habitat	Marine	No destruction or adverse modification

NE = no effect. This determination is appropriate when the proposed action will not directly, indirectly, or cumulatively impact, either positively or negatively, any listed, proposed, candidate species or designated/proposed critical habitat.

NLAA = not likely to adversely affect. This determination is appropriate when the proposed action is not likely to adversely impact any listed, proposed, candidate species or designated/proposed critical habitat or there may be beneficial effects to these resources. Response requested is "Concurrence." This conclusion is appropriate when effects to the species or critical habitat will be beneficial, discountable, or insignificant. Beneficial effects are contemporaneous positive effects without any adverse effects to the species or habitat. Insignificant effects relate to the size of the impact, while discountable effects are those that are extremely unlikely to occur. Based on best judgment, a person would not: (1) be able to meaningfully measure, detect, or evaluate insignificant effects; or (2) expect discountable effects to occur. If the Services concur in writing with the Action Agency's determination of "is not likely to adversely affect" listed species or critical habitat, the section 7 consultation process is completed.

LAA = likely to adversely affect. This determination is appropriate when the proposed action is likely to adversely impact any listed, proposed, candidate species or designated/proposed critical habitat. Response requested for listed species is "Formal Consultation". Response requested for proposed and candidate species is "Conference." This conclusion is reached if any adverse effect to listed species or critical habitat may occur as a direct or indirect result of the proposed action or its interrelated or interdependent actions, and the effect is not discountable or insignificant. In the event the overall effect of the proposed action is beneficial to the listed species or critical habitat, but may also cause some adverse effect on individuals of the listed species or segments of the critical habitat, then the determination should be "is likely to adversely affect." Such a determination requires formal section 7 consultation and will require additional information.

JP = likely to jeopardize proposed species/adversely modify proposed critical habitat. For proposed species and proposed critical habitats, the Service is required to evaluate whether the proposed action is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the proposed species or adversely modify an area proposed for designation as critical habitat. If you reach this conclusion, a section 7 conference is required.

JC = likely to jeopardize candidate species. For candidate species, the Service is required to evaluate whether the proposed action is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the candidate species. If this conclusion is reached, intra-Service section 7 conference is required.

Critical Habitat = No destruction or adverse modification. This determination is appropriate when the proposed action will have no direct or indirect alteration that appreciably diminishes the value of critical habitat for both the survival and recovery of a listed species. Such alterations include, but are not limited to, alterations adversely modifying any of those physical or biological features that were the basis for determining the habitat to be critical.

I. Bald Eagles

Are bald eagles present in the action area? ☐ NO ☑ YES

If YES, the following conservation measures should be implemented:

1. If bald eagle breeding or nesting behaviors are observed or a nest is discovered or known, all activities (e.g., walking, camping, clean-up, use of a UTV, ATV, or boat) should avoid the nest by a minimum of 660 feet. If the nest is protected by a vegetated buffer where there is *no* line of sight to the nest, then the minimum avoidance distance is 330 feet. This avoidance distance shall be maintained from the onset of breeding/courtship behaviors until any eggs have hatched and eaglets have fledged (approximately 6 months).
2. If a similar activity (e.g., driving on a roadway) is closer than 660 feet to a nest, then you may maintain a distance buffer as close to the nest as the existing tolerated activity.
3. If a vegetated buffer is present and there is no line of sight to the nest and a similar activity is closer than 330 feet to a nest, then you may maintain a distance buffer as close to the nest as the existing tolerated activity.
4. In some instances, activities conducted at a distance greater than 660 feet of a nest may result in disturbance. If an activity appears to cause initial disturbance, the activity shall stop and all individuals and equipment will be moved away until the eagles are no longer displaying disturbance behaviors.

Will you implement the above measures? ☐ NO ☑ YES

If these measures cannot be implemented, then you must contact the Service's Migratory Bird Permit Office.
Texas – (505) 248-7882 or by email: **permitsR2MB@fws.gov**
Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida – (404) 679-7070 or by email: **permitsR4MB@fws.gov**

J. Migratory Birds

Identify the species anticipated in the action area and behaviors (breeding, roosting, foraging) anticipated during project implementation. You may list similar species on a single line and categorize by type (e.g., Wading birds - great blue heron, snowy egret, reddish egret). If species or habitat impacts could occur, identify avoidance and minimization measures to prevent incidental take. Incidental take of Migratory Birds cannot be authorized. Use additional tables on the next page if needed.

1.

Species/Species Group	Behavior	Species/Habitat Impacts and Conservation Measures to Minimize Impacts
Wading Birds (e.g., herons and egrets)	Wading Birds- breeding, foraging, wintering, roosting	Wading birds primarily forage and feed at the water's edge in fresh, brackish and saltwater marshes and tidal flats, thus they could be at the site. Noise and disturbance may cause birds to avoid the action area during construction. They would be expected to move to another nearby location to continue foraging, feeding and resting. These birds primarily nest and roost in isolated trees, shrubs (e.g., pines, mangroves), dunes or islands. There are trees and shoreline vegetation at the water's edge, where wading birds could be located. There is minimal to no tree removal expected from the site improvements and there are no known rookeries on site, so no impacts to nesting and roosting are anticipated. Care would be taken to minimize noise and vibration near areas where foraging or resting birds are encountered. All disturbances would be localized and temporary. No take of wading birds is anticipated.
Shorebirds (e.g., plovers, terns, and skimmers)	Shorebirds- breeding, foraging, wintering, nesting	Shorebirds could occasionally forage, feed, rest, and roost in the project area. As such, they may be impacted locally and temporarily by the proposed project. It is expected that they would be able to move to another nearby location to continue foraging, feeding and resting. These birds primarily nest and roost in the dunes and sand beaches. The action area does not include dune habitat, but there is some beach and mudflat habitat. There are no known shorebird nests on site. The proposed project would not affect roosting at this site because construction activities would occur during daylight hours only. No impacts to nesting and roosting shorebirds are anticipated. Care would be taken to minimize noise and vibration near areas where foraging or resting birds were encountered. All disturbances would be localized and temporary. Therefore, no take of shorebirds is anticipated.

Migratory Birds

Continuation page if needed.

II.

SPECIES/SPECIES GROUP	BEHAVIOR	SPECIES/HABITAT IMPACTS and CONSERVATION MEASURES TO MINIMIZE IMPACTS
Raptors (e.g., falcons, hawks, kites, and bald eagles)	Raptors- breeding, foraging, wintering, roosting	Raptors could forage and rest in the action area. As such, they may be impacted locally and temporarily by the proposed project. It is expected that they would be able to move to another nearby location to continue foraging and resting. These birds primarily nest and roost in trees. There are no known raptor nests on site. There is potential for bald eagles in the site area, but no known nests at present. All bald eagle avoidance and minimization measures listed above in Section I would be followed accordingly. The proposed project would not affect roosting at this site because construction activities would occur during daylight hours only. There is minimal to no tree removal expected from the site improvements and there are no known nests on site, so no impacts to nesting and roosting are anticipated. Care would be taken to minimize noise and vibration near areas where foraging or resting birds were encountered. All disturbances would be localized and temporary. Conservation measures will be implemented to minimize effects to protected species and migratory birds from the project to the maximum extent practicable. Therefore, no take of raptors is anticipated.
Songbirds (e.g., sparrows, warblers, wrens, and woodpeckers)	Songbirds- breeding, foraging, wintering, roosting	Songbirds could forage, rest, and nest in the project area. Songbirds would be able to avoid the construction area and move to another nearby location to continue foraging and resting. Construction would occur only during daylight hours. If work must be done when songbirds are nesting, nest surveys will be completed prior to any tree/shrub removal and any trees or shrubs with active nests will be flagged and avoided. For these reasons, no take of songbirds or their nests is anticipated.
	General impact reduction methods for all birds.	To the extent possible, construction activities will avoid specific habitat locations onsite if there are known nesting birds and avoid nesting seasons. Pre-construction nesting surveys for migratory birds and raptors will be conducted and if evidence of nesting is found, the Trustees will coordinate with the USFWS to develop and implement appropriate conservation measures. At a minimum, trees/shrubs with active nests will be flagged and avoided. To avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds from increased human activity, trails will divert and concentrate recreational users away from any important nesting, foraging, or rookery locations including shorelines where shoreline restoration will occur and minimal removal of trees. This project proposes minimal habitat fragmentation by improvements on existing areas of disturbance. Additionally, signage will be installed along trails, boardwalks, and picnic locations to provide users information on sensitive species in the area and actions to take to avoid or minimize impacts to sensitive species. Foraging and resting birds may temporarily be displaced during construction or recreation activities. Bird roosting will not be affected because construction activities and most human use will occur during daylight

Pre-existing NEPA Documents

Yes ✓ No

Does this project have any pre-existing, site specific NEPA analysis? If YES, then provide final NEPA analysis, if not final then provide draft. If tiered from a programmatic EIS or EA, then provide the programmatic document or a link below.

Tiered from the Deepwater Horizon NRDA Early Restoration Phase III Early Restoration Plan/Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement. http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration/early-restoration/phase-iii/

NMFS ESA §7 Consultation

We request that all ESA §7 consultation requests/packages be submitted electronically to: **Laurel.Jennings@noaa.gov**. Questions about consultation status may be directed to the same email address or by phone, 206-526-4601 or 206-794-4761 (cell).

FWS ESA § 7 Consultation

We request that all consultation requests/packages to FWS be submitted electronically to: **Ashley_Mills@fws.gov**. You will be notified when we receive your Biological Evaluation. Upon receipt, we will conduct a preliminary review and provide any comments and feedback, including any requests for modifications or additional information. If modifications or additional information is necessary, we will work with you until the Biological Evaluation form is considered complete. Once complete, we will send your Biological Evaluation to the appropriate Field Office to conduct consultation. If you have questions about consultation status, please contact Ashley Mills by phone 812-756-2712 or email Ashley_Mills@fws.gov.

Name of Person Completing this Form:	Heather Ballestero, Industrial Economics, Inc.
Name of Project Lead:	
Date Form Completed:	12/18/2015
Date Form Updated:	12/23/15

Figure 1: Island View Park Parcel Location

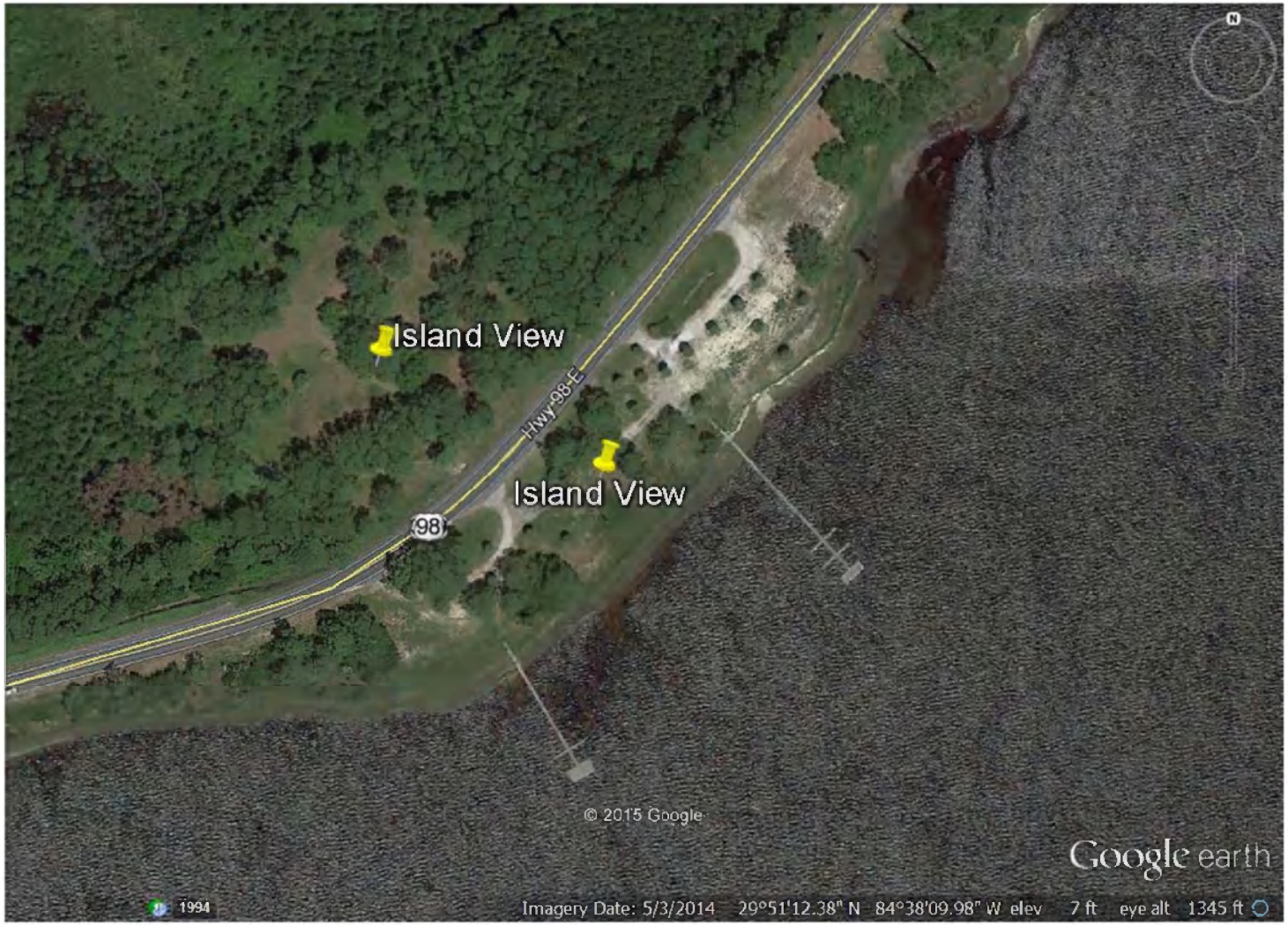

Figure 2: The Proposed Island View Park- 29°51'12.15"N 84°38'10.60"W

Figure 3: Island View Park Proposed Conceptual Master Plan

Figure 4: Island View Park- Waterfront parcel looking northeast along shoreline

Figure 5: Island View Park- Waterfront parcel looking southwest along shoreline

Figure 6: Island View Park- Waterfront parcel looking towards shoreline from existing dock

Figure 7: Island View Park- Waterfront parcel looking northeast towards waterway and existing dock

Figure 8: Island View Park- Inland portion of property looking southeast

Figure 9: Island View Cottages Aerial View- Unknown date (prior to 2013) from ESRI.

Figure 10: Island View Park- Google Street Imagery- ocean front portion of property from May 2011 showing former structures

Figure 11: Island View Park- Google Street Imagery- inland portion of property from May 2011 showing cleared understory

Figure 12: Gulf Sturgeon Critical Habitat Unit 13 off of the Island View Parcel (ERMA, 2015).

Biological Evaluation for Florida Coastal Access Project: Island View Park
Attachment B: Project Description.

The proposed Island View Park site is a 7.13-acre tract of land that is currently owned by and located within Franklin County, Florida about one mile east of the City of Carrabelle. The property is divided by U.S. 98, a state-designated Big Bend Scenic Byway, with an inland northwestern parcel ("inland parcel") that is 4 acres and a southeastern waterfront parcel ("waterfront parcel") that is 3.13 acres (see Attachment A Figures 1, 2 for general location). The parcels are currently zoned Commercial Recreational District.

The waterfront parcel of the property includes 884 linear feet of frontage along St. George Sound, which lies between two State-designated aquatic preserves (listed as "Outstanding Florida Waters") and is adjacent to the Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve. The waterfront parcel was previously developed with a number of small cottages as part of a motel. All cottage structures and surface improvements were razed and most debris removed after 2011, other than two fishing docks and a dilapidated concrete boat ramp. There is also a footpath along the waterfront that is bare of vegetation. There are no currently existing barriers to entering the waterfront property, which is used for unofficial parking associated with fishing activities on the existing docks (see Attachment A Figure 7). The waterfront parcel has some nearshore grass and some remnant maritime hammock habitat, but much of the waterfront parcel is currently un-vegetated due to prior and ongoing disturbances (see Attachment A Figures 7 and 8). At the shoreline, emergent marsh grasses occur but have been disturbed by regular mowing. There are seagrasses in the water near the piers at this site.

The inland parcel was used as a mobile home park from before 1953 until about 2004, but has been left largely unused since that time and the parcel is largely vegetated. Vegetation on the inland site consists of pine trees (potentially including longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*)) and ornamental landscaping vegetation. Existing infrastructure on the inland parcel is minimal with some above-ground PVC piping and a potential subterranean septic tank on the inland parcel. No improvements are planned on this parcel under the current project. As part of this proposed plan, the site for the Island View Park would be re-zoned from "Commercial Recreational District (C-3)" to "Recreation (P-2)."

The proposed park would be a daytime use park (i.e., sunrise to sunset). The specific site elements detailed in the proposed conceptual site plan for the Island View Park parcel (Attachment A Figure 3) include:

1. **Proposed Turn Lane.** Due to the high speed of cars and sharp turn in the road, a right hand turning lane from U.S. 98 into the proposed park is needed for public safety reasons. The proposed turn lane would be approximately 200 feet long by 25 feet wide (5,000 square feet) with part of it being constructed along the road edge of the waterfront property and the remaining area being constructed in the public right of way.

2. **Expanded Dock for Safety and Accessibility with Fishing Platforms**. Dock expansion includes widening the decking to be ADA compliant. All pier work is proposed to be constructed using the existing pilings. The existing planks on the piers would be removed and replaced to create a pier approximately six feet wide with railings. The total square footage of Dock 1 and Dock 2 would be approximately 2,140 square feet and 1,400 square feet, respectively. The design of the expanded dock would incorporate the use of durable composite grated material for the decking.

3. **Boardwalk**. The proposed boardwalk along the waterfront would be a raised boardwalk made of wood or composite material. This is proposed for 510 linear feet, six feet in width, covering approximately 3,060 square feet. Final boardwalk height would be determined based on environmental and safety concerns.

4. **Stormwater Treatment (as-needed).** A stormwater pond would be located southwest of the proposed parking lot, pending engineering designs and calculations of stormwater runoff. The stormwater pond could excavate up to 700yds of substrate, but the final design depends on the calculations. However, this site has proposed pervious pavement, likely mitigating the necessity for a stormwater pond.

5. **Deck Overlook with Seating and Interpretive Sign**. The proposed project includes construction of a wood overlook deck that would be approximately 35 feet by 50 feet, pending additional submerged aquatic vegetation surveys and consultations, and would contain interior bench seating. This structure would be constructed along the boardwalk, at the base of the northernmost pier.

6. **Lawn Area.** The lawn area (grass) is proposed on both sides of the central plaza, one plot approximately 70 by 30 feet and the second approximately 100 by 35 feet and would require irrigation. An irrigation system would be constructed to help maintain the open lawn area. The waterfront side is not connected to public water, the system would need to connect to public water via eight inch water main and establish a simple hose and pipe drip irrigation system. Minimal additional landscaping would be done for this area, which is already open on the current parcel.

7. **Entry Signage**. Entry signage would be located at the entrance to the park, right before the parking lot.

8. **Central Plaza with Covered Information Kiosk**. This kiosk is proposed to be a 4 x 8 feet structure, on the central plaza area consisting of 1,500 square feet. The central plaza would be finished with concrete pavers with two inch sand setting bed and six inch gravel aggregate base, rendering it a pervious cover. Each concrete paver is approximately 12 by 12 inches.

9. **Parking for approximately 32 vehicles**. An ADA accessible parking lot would be constructed of pervious pavement using concrete paver parking stalls. Each concrete paver is approximately 12 by 12 inches in a six inch aggregate base with sand setting bed, to create a pervious parking surface. The parking lot would be constructed for 32 visitors covering 7,000 square feet with 35 wheel stops and 1,120 square feet of concrete ribbon curbing at the perimeter. Total impervious surface covered at the site would be approximately 21,000 square feet.

10. **Beach Access for Paddle Craft**. The boardwalk would include access directly to the beach on the eastern portion of the property. The existing dilapidated concrete boat ramp would be removed to provide this beach access, but some vegetation removal may be required. The beach area would encompass an approximate area of 1,350 square feet, pending additional submerged aquatic vegetation surveys and consultations.

11. **Alternative Vehicular Entry/Exit**. This alternative entry/exit would be constructed of asphalt (two inches, with a six inch limerock base and 12 inch Type B subgrade). The total area of the alternative entry/exit would be approximately 10,700 square feet.

12. **Proposed Acceleration Lane.** The proposed acceleration lane would allow visitors leaving the park to safely merge with oncoming traffic. The lane would be approximately 125 feet long by 25 feet wide (3,200 square feet) at the northern edge of the waterfront parcel, with part of it being constructed on the waterfront property and part in the public right of way.

Additional site elements not explicitly labeled in the conceptual master plan that would be paid for by the proposed Phase V project include:

- **Concrete sidewalks.** The proposed project would construct ADA accessible concrete sidewalks (five feet wide and four inches deep, covering approximately 635 square feet) along the parking area.
- **General site furnishing.** Site amenities would include four wood arbors with bench swings, six trash receptacles, and four benches (to be placed at the open lawn south of the parking area). **Signs.** The site

would include two signs at the park entrance, six panels for the covered information kiosk, and eight interpretive signs throughout the site.

- **Lighting.** The site would also include one low voltage accent light at the entry sign, eight pole lights in the parking area, and two accent lights at the central plaza area. All lighting would be low-glare, wildlife friendly, and comply with the guidance provided in the current edition of the FWC's Wildlife Lighting Criteria.
- **Additional site work.** Additional work would include removal of an existing concrete slabs, fire hydrant assembly and accompanying water main work, modifying existing electric service.

Final engineering and design plans for the proposed site improvements would be completed following further environmental resource surveys and consultations with state and federal agencies; proposed site improvements may be modified to avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to natural resources. Installation of the proposed site improvements is estimated to take 7-9 months. Staging of equipment and materials for the project sites would likely be located on the property where parking lots would be constructed (according to the conceptual plan), or on previously disturbed areas of the sites. Construction equipment would include a combination of hand-held or power tools for carpentry work as well as heavier construction equipment such as bulldozers, barges, trucks, backhoes, tractor trailers, cranes, small excavators, fork lifts, asphalt machine, roller, or generators. Construction would require the transport of materials to project sites. The number of trips required to transfer materials would be based on the amount and type of materials needed for site improvements at each project site. These details would be determined as part of the final construction design and plan.